MA EUROPEAN THEATRE

Canterbury and Paris
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This taught MA programme offers a unique opportunity to study contemporary European theatre at the University of Kent, the UK’s European university. It is associated with the European Theatre Research Network (ETRN), the renowned Kent-based research centre dedicated to the study of non-English European theatre.

About the programme

You study current creative practices and processes, different theatre systems, performance aesthetics and their histories from across the European continent. You explore theoretical paradigms of European theatre, from the post-dramatic to mise en scène, and investigate the work of key modern and contemporary practitioners, from Polish pioneer Jerzy Grotowski to the Italian experimental group Societas Raffaello Sanzio. You also undertake a placement/field research with a company or at a venue, and collaborate with fellow postgraduate students on research projects of your choice.

The MA draws on the ETRN’s network of partners within the theatre profession and our contacts with scholars across Europe and beyond. It is possible to spend your second semester at the University of Kent’s Paris centre, where courses are taught in English. See www.kent.ac.uk/paris for details.

Inspirational teaching

Our research-led teaching is informed by the work of the ETRN’s leading researchers and its associates, such as Patrice Pavis, Hans-Thies Lehmann, Paul Allain, Peter M Boenisch and others. Additionally, the programme encourages you to experience and engage with the work of renowned European theatre directors and companies through excursions and visits to theatres in London, Canterbury and the region, and overseas group trips.

Course content

The programme can be studied on a full-time basis over one year or part-time over two. The programme consists of four modules and a dissertation project.

Compulsory modules

- European Theatre: Landscapes and Dramaturgies
- Theatre Practices: Professional Study Casebook

You then choose two modules from a range which allows further specialisation in areas such as creative producing, theatre criticism, Shakespeare adaptations on stage and screen, and contemporary performance practice. Further modules are available in interdisciplinary fields such as continental philosophy, European literature, film theory, contemporary visual arts, political activism and anthropology. As part of the course, you can learn or improve your skills in a foreign European language.

Course director

Margherita Laera is a Lecturer in Drama and Theatre at the University of Kent, and a member of ETRN since 2012. Her research focuses on the relationships between theatre and ideology, especially in contemporary theatre and performance in Europe. Dr Laera also specialises in translation and adaptation for the stage, and appropriations of Greek tragedy through history. She is the author of Reaching Athens: Community, Democracy and Other Mythologies in Adaptations of Greek Tragedy (Peter Lang, 2013) and editor of Theatre and Adaptation: Return, Rewrite, Repeat (Bloomsbury, 2014).

Who should apply

This programme is ideal for students intending to develop a larger postgraduate research project for future doctoral studies. Applicants should be curious and passionate about engaging with horizons beyond English-language culture. Knowledge of a foreign European language is desirable, but not essential. Applicants should have a good honours degree in the arts or humanities.

Further information

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